

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Procurement of Products and Services From California's Prison Industry Authority (PIA)

**Policy
Number**

B-66

Page

1 of 3

Purpose

To establish a policy to encourage and facilitate the procurement of products and services from the California Prison Industry Authority (PIA) for use by the County of San Diego.

Background

The Prison Industry Authority (PIA), formerly California Correctional Industries, has been serving California since 1947. Through its inmate labor program, the PIA produces a wide variety of goods and services for sale to federal, state, and local agencies. It relies upon the sale of products and services to fund its program.

The prison population explosion is a national phenomenon. State legislators and correctional departments have increasingly looked toward prison-based industry programs as an avenue of relief for some of the problems and costs associated with burgeoning prison populations. The benefits of inmate employment include not only reduced idleness and unrest in our prisons, but also hard dollar savings, according to state officials.

The responsibility for balancing the needs for inmate employment against the needs of the economy as a whole rests with California's Prison Industry Board. Created to oversee the operations of the PIA, and vested with the powers of a board of director, this eleven-member board is composed largely of private citizens. Members of the Board serve without compensation. Four members of the Board represent the public, two represent labor, and two represent industry. The remaining three members are appointed from selected state agencies.

Before approving any new enterprise, the Board is required to hold public hearings. Their primary focus in such hearings is testimony regarding the operation's potential impact on the private sector. Only those enterprises which will not have a substantial adverse effect on California industry win Board approval for further development. This review process helps ensure that both the integrity of the PIA program and the health of the economy as a whole are safeguarded.

Products and Services Offered

Best known for its manufacture of California license plates, PIA offers a wide range of manufacturing, service, and agricultural enterprises such as metal fabrication, furniture

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Procurement of Products and Services From California's Prison Industry Authority (PIA)

**Policy
Number**

B-66

Page

2 of 3

manufacturing, textile, bindery, a detergent plant, optical laboratory, laundry, micrographics, and dairies and farms.

Locally, at the R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility at Rock Mountain (Otay Mesa), the following facilities are operational: laundry; bakery; optical laboratory; and casual shoe factory.

The local facility and the other state PIA facilities provide opportunities for the County of San Diego to purchase products and services at reasonable prices, while supporting the State Correctional System's goal to rehabilitate and provide useful work and trade experiences for its prison inmate population. PIA's pricing structure, while market competitive, is generally favorable to the government agencies which, like the County of San Diego, are continuously pressured by budget constraints.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

A. The County of San Diego managers shall be encouraged to consider the utilization of products or services produced by California Prison Industry Authority (PIA), whenever that product or service fulfills the requirements of the County.

B. The Director of the Department of Purchasing and Contracting, is authorized to negotiate for and procure, without competitive bidding, products or services which fulfill the requirements of the County, subject to the determination of a fair and reasonable price. Current market prices may be reviewed for comparative price analysis, utilizing standard pricing indices and techniques available to the Director, which will establish that the County is receiving fair value for its expenditures. The Director shall advise requesting departments of the availability of PIA products and services and will only make the final determination to procure PIA products and services when the requesting department has determined PIA products and services to be acceptable based upon product or service quality.

C. No premiums over fair market value will be paid for PIA products and services.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-2022.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Procurement of Products and Services From California's Prison
Industry Authority (PIA)

**Policy
Number**

Page

B-66

3 of 3

Board Action

2-6-90 (43)
12/8/98 (53)
3/12/2002 (10)
04-07-09 (7)
12-15-15 (21)

CAO Reference

1. Department of Purchasing and Contracting